

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace FIG. 5 with the attached Replacement FIG. 5.

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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 22 and 26 to 39 are pending in the present application. Claims 3-5, 12, 13 and 18-20 have been amended. "Second" claim 33 has been renumbered to Claim 39. Claims 23 to 25 were previously canceled.

Applicants note that claims 1 to 22 and 26 to 39 are allowed. The Office Action provides the application is in a condition for allowance except for formal matters, including Drawing/Abstract/Claims objections. Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Drawing Objection

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically the "protective portions have a circular shape" must be shown. Accordingly, a replacement FIG. 5, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.121(d), is provided to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request acceptance of replacement FIG. 5 by the Examiner.

Abstract Objection

The Office Action objects to the Abstract for lack of proper language and format. Specifically, the phrase "The present invention is" in line 1 and "etc." in line 2 are considered improper. Therefore, Applicants have amended the Abstract, as provided on page 2 of this paper, according to the Examiner's recommendations.

Claim Objections

Claims 3-5, 12, and 18-30

Claims 3-5, 12, and 18-30 have been objected to because the use of the word "about" in these claims is considered vague and indefinite as one of ordinary skill in the art would be unable to ascertain the requisite scope of the invention. The Office Action recommends changing the word "about" to "substantially" in order to clarify the claim. Applicants respectfully disagree

with this objection, but in the interest of completing prosecution have made the changes recommended in the Office Action.

Claim 13

The Office Action states the phrase “or a shape that is a combination thereof,” of claim 13, renders the claim indefinite because the claim includes elements not actually disclosed, thereby rendering the scope of the claim unascertainable. MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Applicants respectfully submit that the scope of the claims is ascertainable in that the shape of the protective portions may have a combination of the shapes provided, such as a combination of the square and rectangular shapes. For example, such a combination may have a top view including a rectangular shape while the front view (or cross sectional view) including a square shape. However, at the recommendation of the Examiner, Applicants have amended claim 13 to remove the phrase “or a shape that is a combination thereof” to overcome the objection.

Claim Numbering

The Office Action provides the numbering of claims were not in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.126 requiring the original number of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. Specifically, two number “33” claims were present. Accordingly, Applicants note misnumbered “second” claim 33 has been renumbered 39.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 to 22 and 26 to 39 are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. If any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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BTV.531684.01